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Volume 1 | Number 7

Article 8

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July 2017

## The college vineyard

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### Recommended Citation

Budd, J. L. (2017) "The college vineyard," *Bulletin*: Vol. 1 : No. 7 , Article 8.

Available at: <http://lib.dr.iastate.edu/bulletin/vol1/iss7/8>

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# THE COLLEGE VINEYARD.

PROF. J. L. BUDD.

The two vacant pages of the Bulletin give limited space for notes on our twelve years experience with the one acre on the college grounds known as the vineyard. Previous to my taking charge of the Department, this plot had been twice planted with vines which were lost almost wholly by root killing in winter. Believing the loss to result from too shallow planting the rows, were reset with strong, one year old plants in the bottom of holes eighteen inches deep, filling the holes gradually as the canes made growth.

With this deep planting no vines have been lost of hardy varieties in twelve years, except a few on a gravelly point where we shall re-set at a still greater depth.

By culture, and the use of a hoe in the line of the rows, the ground is kept clean through the season, and partial protection is given in winter by laying down the canes after the pruning in the fall and covering their tips with earth leaving the stiff part of the canes next the crown exposed to the air. We also protect the crown by slight mounding with earth. With both ends of the canes covered the evaporation is lessened, and at this point the plan seems to answer the purpose quite as well as the more difficult and expensive plan of covering the whole cane. Farther north in the state it will probably prove best to cover all parts of the canes. In pruning we cut back the laterals to from two to four buds dependent on the size and vigor of the branch.

In the spring when the buds begin to start the vines are raised and tied at an angle of near forty-five degrees to a two wire trellis.

During the twelve years the plot has been fertilized but once—just prior to the commencement of our prolonged drought period—when it was heavily coated with fairly well rotted barn yard manure in late autumn.

With this general treatment it gave heavy crops of well ripened fruit from the time it came into full bearing up to 1888.

In 1887 the crop was very heavy, which added to the effects of the great drought, so lowered the vitality of the

vines that they started, and blossomed very late, and the cool weather of the early summer advanced the forming fruit so slowly that a large part of the crop failed to mature. It is also worthy of note that this late maturing crop, with rather low vitality of vine, developed more traces of the true grape rot than has been noticed by the writer in Iowa, at any time during the past thirty years.

This year the vines show the effect of the drouth, which is yet (August 19th) unbroken here—but the foliage is mainly healthy and we have a fair crop of well advanced and perfect fruit. The varieties which have fruited regularly, and maintained from fair to good health of cane and foliage, during our recent trying seasons are: Concord, Worden, Moore's Early, Dracut Amber, Telegraph and Cottage.

From time to time vacant places have been filled with newer varieties such as Elvira, Niagra, Prentiss, Francis B. Hayes, some of Roger's Hybirds, etc., but all have been found wanting. When intermingled with standard sorts some of Roger's Hybrids did well and matured fine crops of perfect fruit up to 1888 when the drought so lowered their vitality as to give them a sickly aspect, and a meager showing of imperfect fruit. But it is worthy of note that the Rodger Hybrids that did well for a long period among the Concords utterly failed to live or fruit when planted by themselves, mainly I believe on account of their imperfect pollen. Where fertilized by the Concord they bore fruit and ripened up their wood fairly well. When isolated they bear no fruit, hence the growth of vine was more rampant and its cell structure was less perfectly ripened when cold weather came on.

